



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Alaska Workforce Investment Board
Legislative Committee Report
February 11, 2008**

The Legislative Committee has met two times since the AWIB meeting in October, 2007. A quorum was present at one meeting. Neal Foster and Andy Baker went to Juneau to meet with Department of Labor staff in the Commissioner's office in January regarding legislative issues affecting the AWIB. The committee looked at the following issues since the last board meeting;

- **Elections** - Paula Scavera was scheduled to meet with Boards & Commissions to clear up who is on the board and when their seats expire. After those details are cleared up would be the time to move forward with changes to eligibility for Chair and Vice Chair seats.
- **SB 124 TVEP** - There were questions about the possibility of AWIB designating where the money would go. However, there would most likely opposition to do this from stakeholders and it isn't recommended.
- **HB 226 STEP** - It was suggested the Legislative Committee meet before the February AWIB meeting to go over a strategy to address this with the legislature.
- **Statute/WIA Regulations Discrepancies** - The AWIB bylaws would be the easiest and quickest to change. Compliance issues exist but we need to follow our bylaws. The discrepancies are as follows:
 - The federal regulations do not separate private sector from business and industry for board members.
 - Federal regulations indicate the Governor shall select a chairperson for the State Board (State Statute and Bylaws indicate the Board shall elect a chair).
 - The federal regulations indicate membership should include the governor and 2 members of each chamber of the State legislature. State statute indicates the lieutenant governor or designee.
 - The federal regulations indicate membership should include chief elected officials (representing both cities and counties). State statute doesn't address this.
 - Discrepancy between bylaws and Statute on number of private sector members. Bylaws indicate 4, Statute indicates 5.
- The statutes indicate the Board may not meet more than three times a calendar year. The Board is meeting twice a year with funds for the third meeting going to the Youth Council for face to face meetings.

The Legislative Committee along with interested board members will go to the legislature to lobby for bills affecting the AWIB such as AGIA and STEP, in the afternoon on February 12, 2008.